

Message Text

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64

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, CH

SUBJECT: POLISH MAGAZINE ATTACKS MAOISM

1. THE AUGUST 3 ISSUE OF THE WIDELY-CIRCULATED POLISH ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWS AND FEATURES MAGAZINE PERSPEKTYWY CARRIED AN ARTICLE EXPOUNDING IN SOME DETAIL THE THESIS THAT MAOISM IS A SELF-SERVING NATIVE CHINESE PHILOSOPHY WITH ROOTS IN CHINESE FEUDAL TRADITIONS, RELATED TO BUDDHISM AND TAOISM, RATHER THAN A CHINESE FORM OF MARXISM, AS IT IS FREQUENTLY AND MISTAKENLY INTERPRETED TO BE, "PARTICULARLY IN WESTERN LITERATURE."

THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT EVEN MAOISM MAY BE A MISNOMER FOR "THIS SYSTEM," SINCE MAO WAS ONLY ONE AND "PERHAPS NOT THE MOST FAMOUS" OF ITS THEORETICIANS.

2. THE AUTHOR, STANISLAW GLABINSKI, IS NOT PERSONALLY
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KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY BUT HAS APPEARED ON THE LOCAL SCENE

IN RECENT MONTHS AS A WRITER OF POLITICAL BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON THE FAR EAST, INCLUDING ONE ON US-CHINESE RELATIONS. IN THIS PERSPEKTYWY ARTICLE HE WRITES THAT MAOISM HAS WHAT HE TERMS A SINOCENTRIC CHARACTER DESIGNED TO JUSTIFY THE SUPERIORITY OF THE CONTEMPORARY REIGNING CHINESE DOCTRINES OVER ALL OTHER CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL DOCTRINES, TO JUSTIFY CHINESE GREAT-POWER PRE-TENSIONS, AND TO GIVE THE MAOIST LEADERSHIP TIME TO REALIZE ITS GOALS.

3. AFTER THIS EXPLANATION OF THE NON-MARXIST NATURE OF MAOISM, THE AUTHOR CONCLUDES THAT MAOIST IDEOLOGY IN PRACTICE IS DIRECTED AGAINST "OUR INTERESTS, AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY."

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CHINESE POLICIES HAVE BEEN ATTACKED FREQUENTLY IN POLISH MEDIA IN RECENT YEARS, INCLUDING OFFICIAL STATEMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PARTY PRESS, THIS ARTICLE IS OF INTEREST BECAUSE OF ITS ATTACK ON MAOISM AS A NON-MARXIST IDEOLOGY, WITH THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT IT IS THE CONTEMPORARY CHINESE POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ITS ENTIRE LEADERSHIP THAT IS IN ERROR, NOT JUST CHAIRMAN MAO. ALTHOUGH THE AUTHOR IS NOT A WELL-KNOWN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, THE APPEARANCE OF THE ARTICLE IN AN ATTRACTIVE POPULAR WEEKLY MEANS THAT THIS IDEOLOGICAL DEBUNKING OF MAOISM WILL REACH A BROADER AUDIENCE THAN AN AUTHORITATIVE ATTACK IN THE PARTY PRESS. IN ANY CASE, THIS IS TOO SERIOUS AND SENSITIVE A SUBJECT TO BE HANDLED IN THIS FASHION WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARTY PROPAGANDISTS, WHO MAY VERY WELL HAVE DIRECTED THAT THE ARTICLE BE WRITTEN, OR AT LEAST THAT IT BE PUBLISHED.

5. A TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE IS BEING SENT BY AIR-GRAM TO ADDRESSEES.
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